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CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

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TOPIC Tank and AT Units in the Zeitz Forest

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 5 September 1955

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. From 15 to 17 August 1955, the Artillerie Kaserne (8542) in Zeitz was occupied by approximately 350 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. On 17 August, a wooden garage for approximately 30 vehicles was completed in the western portion of the installation. At 1300 on the same day, a column of 4 T-34/85 tanks, truck [redacted] and ambulance [redacted] moved toward Forst Zeitz troop training grounds. On 18 August, 1 SU-100 gun were parked near the target range of the installation. During the period under review, the Infanterie Kaserne (8541) was occupied by approximately 130 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets with artillery insignia and red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. In addition to 50 soldiers who were engaged in athletics only santries were seen. 2 [redacted]

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2. On 16 August, 50 T-34/85 tanks, 12 JS-1 and JS-2 tanks, 10 JS-3 tanks, 16 x 100-mm AT guns and 24 x 85-mm AT guns were seen in the Kaisereiche - Grosser Stern area at the Forst Zeitz training grounds. Ninety to 100 trucks were parked at the Friedenssiedlung. On 18 August, 6 large tents and 6 field kitchens were noted east of the Kossweda-Nickelsdorf-Lessen road. Six T-34/85 tanks, 2 JS-3 tanks and approximately 30 additional tanks, which were [redacted] and entrenched, were seen near the tents. Soldiers seen [redacted] wore black epaulets with tank insignia. [redacted]

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1. Comment. The information indicated that the bulk of the 36th Gds Tank Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div. was in the Zeitz Forest in mid-August. [redacted] the AT gun regiment of the 308th Arty Brig stationed in Gera was there.

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2. Comment. Individual shipments from Zeitz to Ohrdruf after mid-July indicate that elements of the 67th Gds Mecz Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div. are in Ohrdruf together with the bulk of the other elements of the division from Weimar and Jena. [redacted]

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